



DEC 30 2004

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Washington, DC  
20250

Dr. Milan Malena  
Director General, State Veterinary Administration  
Slezská 7  
120 56 Praha 2  
Czech Republic

Dear Dr. Malena:

Thank you for the information you provided in October 2004 concerning the classical swine fever (CSF) status of the Czech Republic. We regret that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) did not receive sufficient information from your country in time for inclusion in the first round of CSF site visits in the new European Union (EU) Member States.

Unfortunately, since our e-mail security system excludes all correspondence containing zip files, we have not received the file referred to in your letter as containing complementary CSF information. It would be very useful to our evaluation to receive this information; please send it in another format.

In addition, we would like to receive the 11-factor information as offered in your letter of October 2004. I have enclosed a copy of the list of 11 factors in this letter for your convenience (Enclosure 1). APHIS requires information on these topics in order to conduct foreign animal disease evaluations that comply with the regulations in Title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations*, section 92.2 (9 CFR 92.2). Please ensure that your 11-factor response addressed the specific information outlined in Enclosure 2. We are routinely requesting such information from all new EU Member States

We are currently unsure as to what commodities the Czech Republic intends to export to the United States. It is important to note that, in order to export live swine or swine products, your country must be considered free of swine vesicular disease (SVD) in addition to CSF and foot and mouth disease (FMD). The Czech Republic is already considered free of FMD under 9 CFR 94.1, with restrictions as stated under 9 CFR 94.11. However, the United States does not consider the Czech Republic to be free of SVD.

In this regard, APHIS is willing to conduct an evaluation of the SVD status of your country in conjunction with the CSF evaluation, provided that you send us (1) a written request for the Czech Republic to be considered free of SVD, and (2) the 11-factor information for SVD as described in Enclosure 1, preferably including the specific information listed in Enclosure 3.

Once we receive your complete information, APHIS must conduct a site visit to verify and/or complement the information provided. The scheduling of the site visit depends in



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large part on the timeliness and completeness of the additional information provided. Information provided for the document review and obtained during the site visit will be used to conduct a risk assessment.

Your primary contact for this project is Dr. Kelly Rhodes, USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import and Export, RES, Unit 38, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737. Her telephone number is 301-734-7602; her fax number is 301-734-3222; and her e-mail address is [kelly.rhodes@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:kelly.rhodes@aphis.usda.gov). Please feel free to contact Dr. Rhodes if you have any questions or concerns. In addition, it would facilitate information exchange and expedite the evaluation process if you could identify an equivalent contact person in the State Veterinary Administration of the Czech Republic.

We look forward to working with you during this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Clifford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small "for" written below it.

John R. Clifford  
Deputy Administrator  
Veterinary Services

Enclosures